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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the patent application of: :  
Edward J. A. Pope and Kenneth M. Kratsch :  
For: Preceramic polymers to hafnium : Margaret G. Moore  
carbide and hafnium nitride ceramic fibers :  
and matrices : Examiner  
Serial No. 10/058,808 : Art Unit 3730  
Filed: January 28, 2002 :

AMENDMENT

To the Commissioner for Patents:

In response to an office action mailed July 28, 2003 the applicants hereby amends  
their application as follows:

In the claim:

Cancel claim 1.

Add claim 7:

7. Hafnium carbide containing ceramic fiber derived from a pre-ceramic polymer formed  
by a process comprising the steps of:

- a. melting a hafnium containing pre-ceramic polymer;
- b. extruding said polymer through an orifice to form fiber;
- c. cross-linking said fiber; and
- d. heating said cross-linked fiber under controlled atmospheric conditions at a  
temperature greater than 600 degrees centigrade to obtain a hafnium carbide containing  
ceramic fiber.

Add claim 8

8. A ceramic fiber comprising hafnium carbide derived from a pre-ceramic polymer.